GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2949
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2016
Comparison of Railway Transport with Road/Air Transport
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of railway transport in the country in comparison to road and air transport; and

(b) the steps taken/ being taken by the Railways to face the competition of other modes of transport in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) Authentic data of traffic from other modes of transport mainly road and air is not completely available and hence not strictly comparable with the rail traffic. For door to door service as well as short lead traffic, road transport is preferred. Whereas, for long distances and bulk traffic rail mode is preferred. Therefore, the market share of traffic transported by rail is difficult to assess accurately.
However, over the years rail traffic has registered a significant growth in absolute terms. The freight traffic handled by Indian Railways has increased more than 15 fold from 73.2 Million Tonnes in 1950-51 to 1104.17 Million Tonnes in 2015-16.
In case of passenger traffic, the number of passengers booked by Indian Railways has increased from 3680.27 million in 1990-91 to 8151.90 million in 2015-16.

(b) In order to attract additional traffic to Railways and thereby increasing freight revenue, Indian Railways has taken several steps like Automatic Freight Rebate Scheme for traffic loaded in empty flow directions, Incentive Scheme for Freight Forwarders, improving throughput per train, running of long haul trains etc.
To increase rail traffic, Indian Railways have introduced various schemes like Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme, Wagon Leasing Scheme, Special Freight Operator Scheme (SFTO), Automobile Freight Train Operator Scheme (AFTO), Development of Rail-side Warehousing complexes, development of Private Freight Terminals, door-to-door service for non-bulk traffic through containerized movement through Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) as well as through other Container Train Operators (private operators). For non-bulk traffic, parcel express trains are running on 12 routes. 95 Rail Milk Tankers (RMT) have been procured by National Dairy Development Board for transportation of milk, which are plying at different locations.
The measures taken for improving passenger traffic include-
(i) Augmentation of on-board capacity by attachment of additional coaches, running of special trains during festivals and holidays, running of Suvidha trains etc.
(ii) Organizing intensive ticket checking drives including fortress checks etc.
(iii) Augmentation of ticket selling capacity through operation of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM), Cash-coin & Smart Card operated Ticket Vending Machines (CoTVM), mobile ticketing, utilizing the services of ticketing agents like Jan Sadhran Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBS), Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA), Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK) etc.

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